

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A template comprising:  
a plurality of adjacent parallel pins forming an array,  
a pin sleeve for engaging and slideably holding the pins in the array,  
the pin sleeve having a locking mechanism to fix the pins in their relative positions when  
desired,  
a flexible track attached to a first end of the pins for forming a closed loop template, the  
track having a first fixed end and a second free end, the first fixed end being tapered to create a  
smooth joint as it forms the closed loop with the second free end, so as to allow for the  
adjustability of the length of the track, as the pins are moved relative to each other.

2. (original) A template as in claim 1 wherein,  
the plurality of pins are cylindrically arrayed.

3. (original) A template as in claim 2 wherein,  
the pin sleeve has a guide for attaching a tool to move along the pin sleeve.

4. (original) A template as in claim 2 wherein,  
the template is attached to a cylinder,  
a tool rotatably attached to the cylinder, the tool having an arm for engaging the track on  
the template such that the tool can follow the track on the template as it rotates on the cylinder.

5. (original) A template as in claim 4 wherein,  
the arm is magnetically attracted to contact the track on the template.

6. (original) A template as in claim 5 wherein,  
the arm has a spring for urging the arm contact with the track on the template.

7. (original) A template as in claim 1 wherein,  
the pin sleeve comprises connectable segments with each segment is connected to other  
segments for adjusting the pin sleeve length.

1 8. (original) A template as in claim 1 wherein,  
2 the pin sleeve has an engagement mechanism to attach it to an object.

1 9. (original) A template as in claim 1 wherein,  
2 the pin sleeve is flexible so it can be shaped to an object.

1 10. (original) A template as in claim 2 wherein,  
2 the sleeve is in the form of a tubular pantograph mechanism, allowing the pin sleeve to  
3 have an adjustable diameter to fit different pipe sizes.

1 11. (original) A template as in claim 2 wherein,  
2 a self centering mechanism centers the template on a cylindrical object to which it is  
3 attached.

1 12. (original) A template as in claim 1 wherein,  
2 the track has a magnetic material for attracting and engaging an arm on a tool for guiding  
3 the tool.

1 13. (original) A template as in claim 1 wherein,  
2 the track has a wire for creating an electromagnetic field for attracting and engaging an  
3 arm on a tool for guiding the tool.

1 14. (original) A template comprising:  
2 a plurality of adjacent parallel pins forming an array,  
3 a pin sleeve for engaging and slideably holding the pins in the array,  
4 the pin sleeve having a locking mechanism to fix the pins in their relative positions when  
5 desired,  
6 a flexible track attached to a first end of the pins for forming a template as the pins are  
7 moved relative to each other,  
8 the pin sleeve has a guide for attaching a tool to move along the pin sleeve.

1 15. (original) A template as in claim 14 having,  
2 a means for fixing the template in place on a workpiece.

1 16. (original) A method of forming templates for tools to use comprising:  
2 holding a plurality of pins in a pin sleeve which fixes the pins in a radial position around  
3 a center line such that the pins form a cylinder,  
4 attaching a smooth faced adjustable length flexible track to one end of the plurality of  
5 pins,  
6 forming a template of the smooth faced flexible track by adjusting the length of each pin  
7 relative to the adjacent pins longitudinally along the axis of the cylinder while adjusting the  
8 length of the adjustable flexible track, and  
9 locking the pins in position relative to the pin sleeve such that the template remains fixed,  
10 forming a track on the pin sleeve for guiding a tool.

1 17. (original) A method of forming templates for tools as in claim 16 further comprising the  
2 step of:  
3 attaching a work tool having an arm for following the template to the pin sleeve, such  
4 that the tool can work on a workpiece by following the template.

1 18. (original) A method of forming templates for tools as in claim 16 further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 holding a plurality of pins in a pin sleeve which fixes the pins in a radial position around  
4 a center line such that the pins form a cylinder,

5 forming a template of the pins by placing the pins around a component, of a pipe to pipe  
6 assembly to be welded, and allowing the pins to register the shape of the seamline to be welded;

7 locking the pins in position relative to the pin sleeve such that the pins remains fixed in  
8 position,

9 sliding the template back from the seamline of the connection, and locking it in position,  
10 attaching a smooth faced adjustable length flexible track to one end of the plurality of  
11 pins,

12 attaching a welder having a tracing arm to a guide built into the template,  
13 using the track on the template to guide the tracing arm to weld the seamline of the connecting  
14 pipes.

1 19. (original) A method of forming templates for tools as in claim 16 further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 attaching a work tool, having an adjustable length arm mechanism and a motion system,  
4 to a workpiece, such that the tool can work on the work piece by allowing the adjustable arm  
5 mechanism to follow the template while the motion system allows the work tool to maintain its  
6 relative orientation and distance to the surface work piece.

1 20. (original) A method of forming and using templates for tools to use comprising:

2 forming a smooth faced flexible track around a work piece by use of pins slideable in a  
3 pin sleeve to form a predetermined shape,

4 locking the track in position using a locking mechanism on the pin sleeve such that the  
5 track remains fixed while maintaining the predetermined shape,

6 attaching a work tool, having an adjustable length arm mechanism and a motion system, to the  
7 work piece, such that the tool can work on the work piece by allowing the adjustable arm  
8 mechanism to follow the track while the motion system allows the work tool to orbit the work  
9 piece and maintain its relative orientation and distance to the surface of the work piece.

1 21. (original) A method of forming and using templates for tools as in claim 20 further  
2 comprising:  
3 an orbital motion system employing magnetic wheels to orbit the workpiece.

1 22. (original) A method of forming and using templates for tools as in claim 20 further  
2 comprising:  
3 an orbital motion system employing a chain and wheels to orbit the workpiece.

1 23. (currently amended) A method of forming and using templates for tools as in claim 20  
2 further comprising:  
3 an orbital motion system employing a circular ~~band~~ track to orbit the workpiece.

1 24. (original) A method of working on a workpiece comprising the steps of,  
2 providing an adjustable template attached to the workpiece,  
3 orbiting the axis of the workpiece with a tool carriage,  
4 axially extending and retracting a tool arm having a tool thereon, relative to the tool  
5 carriage,  
6 controlling the axial position of the tool by the template guiding the axial position of the  
7 tool arm relative to the tool carriage.

1 25. (original) A tool for orbitally working on a workpiece comprising:  
2 a means for attaching an orbital tool carriage to a workpiece such that the orbital tool  
3 carriage axially orbits the workpiece,  
4 a tool for operating on the workpiece,  
5 a means for axially moving the tool relative to the orbital tool carriage,  
6 a means for attaching an adjustable template to the workpiece,  
7 a tracer arm for engaging and following the template on the workpiece connected to the  
8 means for axially moving the tool relative to the orbital tool carriage, such that the tool operates  
9 on the workpiece at the desired axial position as the tool orbits the workpiece.

1 26. (original) A tool for orbitally working on a workpiece as in claim 25 wherein:

2  
3 the tool is attached to an axially extending tool arm which moves axially on the orbital  
4 tool carriage.

1 27. (original) A tool for orbitally working on a workpiece as in claim 25 wherein:

2  
3 the tool is attached to an axially tool carriage which is moveably attached to an axially  
4 extending tool arm extending from the orbital tool carriage.

1 28. (original) A tool for orbitally working on a workpiece as in claim 25 wherein:

2 a flexible template on the workpiece having its free ends seamlessly connected and is  
3 attached to the workpiece.

1 29. (currently amended) A method of forming and using templates for tools to use  
2 comprising:

3 forming a smooth faced flexible track around a work piece of a predetermined shape,  
4 locking the track in position using a locking mechanism ~~on the pin sleeve~~ such that the  
5 track remains fixed while maintaining the predetermined shape,  
6 attaching a work tool, having an adjustable length arm mechanism and a motion system, to the  
7 work piece, such that the tool can work on the work piece by allowing the adjustable arm  
8 mechanism to follow the track while the motion system allows the work tool to orbit the work  
9 piece and maintain its relative orientation and distance to the surface of the work piece.

1 30. (currently amended) A method of forming and using templates for tools as in claim 29  
2 29 further comprising:

3 an orbital motion system employing magnetic wheels to orbit the workpiece.

1 31. (currently amended) A method of forming and using templates for tools as in claim 29  
2 29 further comprising:

3 an orbital motion system employing a chain and wheels to orbit the workpiece.

- 1 32. (currently amended) A method of forming and using templates for tools as in claim 20
- 2 29 further comprising:
- 3 an orbital motion system employing a circular ~~band~~ track to orbit the workpiece.